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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /167 W
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R 241558Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, UN, CY, CA
SUBJECT: UNFICYP

1. SPECIAL CABINET COMMITTEE MET JULY 23 TO DISCUSS GOC RESPONSE TO UNSYG REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL UNFICYP PERSONNEL. EXTAFF SECRETARY SHARP LATER ANNOUNCED DECISION WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER FULL CABINET SESSION TOMORROW, JULY 25. SHARP SAID FACTORS AFFECTING DECISION INCLUDED FUNCTION ADDITIONAL FORCES WILL BE ASKED TO FULFILL, AND CONSENT OF PARTIES INVOLVED. DEFENSE MIN RICHARDSON TOLD PRESS CANADA HAS CAPACITY TO DOUBLE PRESENT STRENGTH (488) IN UNFICYP, BUT SUGGESTED OTHER TROOP CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD INCREASE CONTINGENTS "AND PERHAPS SOME NEW COUNTRIES WILL BE INVOLVED".

2. EXTAFF OFFICIAL (GREEN, DEFENSE RELATIONS - PEACEKEEPING) TOLD EMBOFF IT VERY LIKELY GOC WILL AGREE TO INCREASE UNFICYP CONTINGENT, PROBABLY BY 200-300 MEN. GREEN SAID EXTAFF BELIEVED THAT DURING PRESENT CRISIS UNFICYP, AND CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN PARTICULAR, HAD PLAYED MUCH MORE THAN OBSERVER ROLE, AND HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING LOCAL CEASEFIRES, AND EVACUATING TOURISTS AND OTHER NON-COMBATANTS.
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3. DECISION TO CONTINUE, AND POSSIBLY AUGMENT, CANADIAN UNFICYP CONTINGENT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE UNIVERSALLY POPULAR. SOME POLITICAL FORCES ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL, AND SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE RECOMMENDED AN END TO UNFICYP ROLE. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL EDITORIAL JULY 23, TITLED "CANADIAN PRESENCE IN CYPRUS SHOULD END," SAYS SHARP AND RICHARDSON ATTITUDE TOWARD UNFICYP MOTIVATED BY "SELF-SATISFACTION" IN "BUSY BUSTLING ROLES IN WORLD CRISIS". "THE MANDATE UNDER WHICH CANADIAN TROOPS WERE SENT TO CYPRUS TEN YEARS AGO IS NOW CLEARLY IRRELEVANT TO THE CURRENT CRISIS. IT IS TIME TO BRING THEM HOME". HOWEVER, WITH RECENT ELECTORAL VICTORY, GOC IN POSITION TO WITHSTAND CRITICISM OF THIS SORT, AND IT APPEARS RESPONSE TO UNSYG WILL BE POSITIVE.
JOHNSON

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